

Focus Area 3: Oropharyngeal Cancer

Objective 3-6 targets an overall reduction in the oropharyngeal cancer death rate to 2.7 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for oropharyngeal cancer were 2.7 per 100,000 population in 2000, 2.8 in 2001 and 2002, and 2.7 in 2003 (Figure 3-6, Table 3-6). California is achieving the HP2010 objective of 2.7 oropharyngeal cancer deaths per 100,000 population.

California data by race and ethnicity show that Blacks/African Americans had the highest age-adjusted oropharyngeal cancer death rates: 3.5 per 100,000 in 2000; 4.3 in 2001; 3.7 in 2002; and 3.8 in 2003. The next highest rates were reported for Whites (2.8 per 100,000 in 2000, 3.1 in 2001 and 2002, and 2.9 in 2003), and for Asians (3.1 per 100,000 in 2000, 2.2 in 2001, 2.6 in 2002, and 2.8 in 2003). These rates are slightly higher than the HP2010 target of 2.7 per 100,000 population, and this objective is not being achieved for these racial groups. The HP2010 objective for oropharyngeal cancer death rates is, however, being achieved for the Hispanic/Latino population (1.7 per 100,000 in 2000, 1.5 in 2001, 1.6 in 2002, and 1.7 in 2003). Rates for the American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and the "Multirace" populations were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here (with the exception of zero events for American Indians/Alaska Natives in 2001 and the "Multirace" population in 2000).

Age-adjusted oropharyngeal cancer death rates for males were significantly higher than rates for females, and also significantly higher than the HP2010 target. Death rates were 3.8 per 100,000 males in 2000 and in 2001, and 4.0 in 2002 and 2003, compared with 1.8 per 100,000 females in 2000, 1.9 in 2001, 1.8 in 2002, and 1.7 in 2003. This HP2010 objective is being achieved for females, but not for males.

For more information on oropharyngeal cancer in California, visit the California Cancer Registry Web site at:

<http://www.ccrca.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 3-6, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume1/03Cancer.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od03.htm>

Figure 3-6
Oropharyngeal Cancer Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

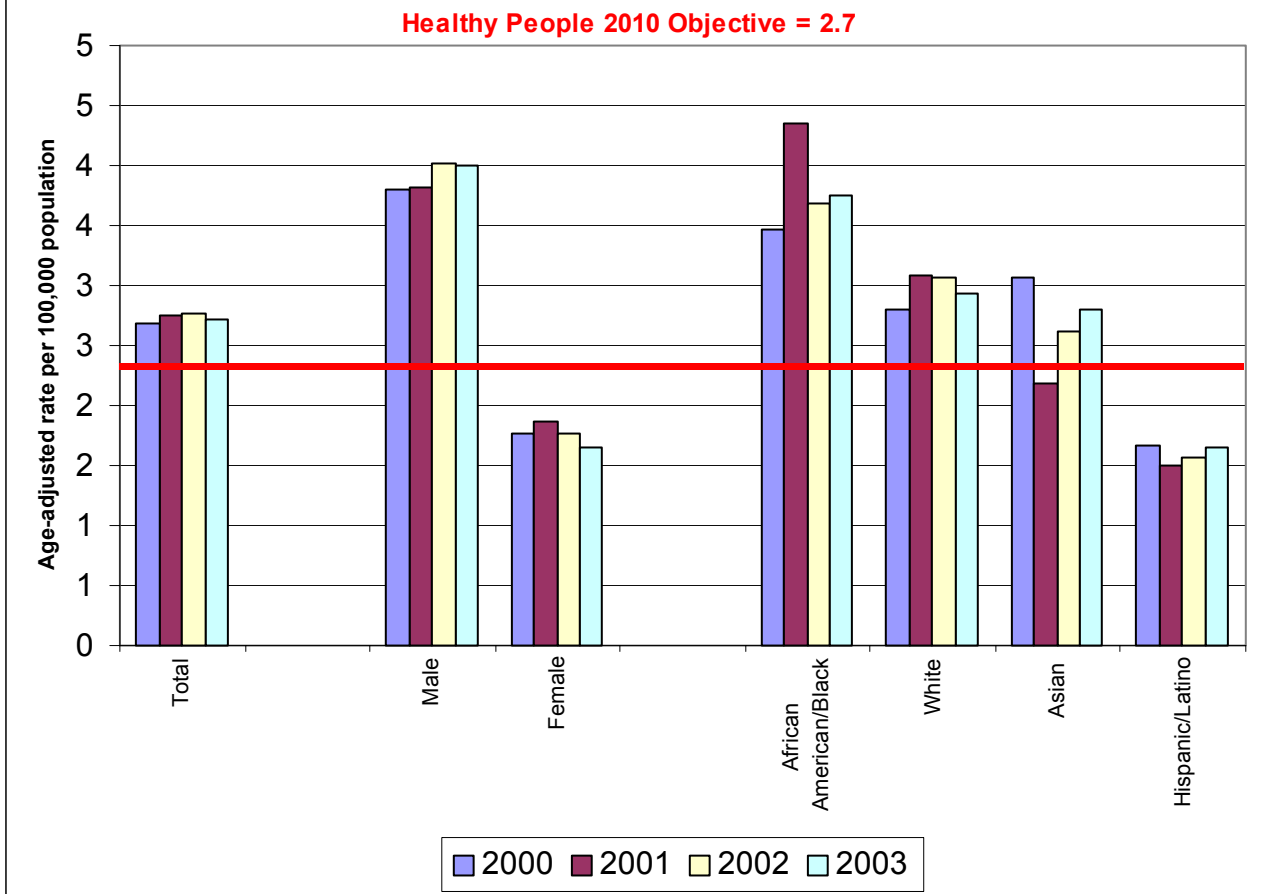


Table 3-6
Oropharyngeal Cancer Deaths and Death Rates
California, 2000-2003

	2000		Lower	Upper	2001		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		2.7				2.7		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	799	2.7	2.5	2.9	852	2.8	2.6	2.9
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	60	3.5	2.6	4.4	79	4.3	3.4	5.3
American Indian	4	DSU	-----	-----	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian	98	3.1	2.4	3.7	76	2.2	1.7	2.7
Hispanic/Latino	77	1.7	1.3	2.1	75	1.5	1.1	1.9
Pacific Islander	5	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
White	553	2.8	2.6	3.0	617	3.1	2.8	3.3
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	296	1.8	1.6	2.0	321	1.9	1.7	2.1
Male	503	3.8	3.5	4.1	531	3.8	3.5	4.2

	2002		Lower	Upper	2003		Lower	Upper
	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.	N	Rate ¹	95% C.I.	95% C.I.
Healthy People 2010 Target		2.7				2.7		
CALIFORNIA TOTAL	888	2.8	2.6	3.0	900	2.7	2.5	2.9
Race-Ethnicity								
African American/Black	71	3.7	2.8	4.6	72	3.8	2.9	4.6
American Indian	1	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	94	2.6	2.1	3.2	106	2.8	2.3	3.3
Hispanic/Latino	83	1.6	1.2	1.9	93	1.7	1.3	2.0
Pacific Islander	3	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
White	634	3.1	2.8	3.3	620	2.9	2.7	3.2
Multirace	2	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
Gender								
Female	314	1.8	1.6	2.0	303	1.7	1.5	1.8
Male	574	4.0	3.7	4.3	597	4.0	3.7	4.3

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2003; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2030, May 2004.

NOTES: Oropharyngeal cancer deaths defined by ICD-10 codes C00-C14.

¹ Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard; excludes death records with unknown ages.

DSU = Data Statistically Unreliable based on small number of events.